

**PUERTO RICO HEALTHY HOMES/HOUSING/BUILDINGS' INITIATIVE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT- PARTNER WORKING SESSIONS
MEETING INVITATION**

DATE & TIME: Thursday, Dec. 6th, Friday, Dec 7th AND Dec. 10th, 2018 from 9:00am – 2:00pm

VENUE: Universidad Metropolitana en Bayamón

ADDRESS: Sala Carmen Pérez; Biblioteca Dra. Pilar Barbosa, 2nd Nivel

MEETING PURPOSE: This joint PR Healthy Homes/Housing/Buildings' Initiative Working Sessions on Workforce Development brings together key stakeholders in health, housing, environmental and workforce training programs from non-profits, PR agencies, academia, private sector, foundations and the Federal family. The main purpose is to support efforts to coordinate; and collectively move forward an implementation plan for key workforce development initiatives involved in Housing. The healthy homes/housing/buildings' initiative is a part of the Health and Social Services and Housing RSF. This rebuilding of Puerto Rico provides an excellent opportunity to integrate housing, a key social determinant of health, with the indoor and outdoor environment.

INITIATIVE PURPOSE: The Healthy Homes/Housing/Buildings' initiative will primarily focus on building capacity for the identification and management of lead poisoning, mold and asthma, and toxic stress in the aftermath of disasters. This will be accomplished first through focused training of target audiences: *workers* involved in debris removal/mold remediation/renovation/rebuild/solar/energy star/weatherization/Indoor AirPLUS; individuals trained as Lead Inspectors; *Healthy Home Inspectors; Community Health Workers; Health Care Providers and Families and Children.* Focusing on the health care delivery that incorporates the strategy for addressing asthma, mold and lead exposure through clinical and environmental/in-home management will be the next approach. This initiative will also focus on addressing building codes revisions and compliance; sustainable building materials, Solar initiatives, energy and water efficiency (Energy Star, Water sense, Portfolio Manager, Indoor AirPLUS, etc.). Incorporating key components of the Built Environment and the Walkability Institute will also be addressed. This rebuilding of Puerto Rico provides an excellent opportunity to integrate housing, a key social determinant of health, with the indoor and outdoor environment.

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Provide a current list of activities and reports on Workforce development delineated by agencies/private or non-profits.
- 2) Develop an implementation plan with timelines and tracking mechanisms on workforce development by target audiences. The main goal is to provide sustainable career paths for the people of PR.
- 3) Foster collaborations across health, housing, environment local agencies and non-profits to develop work plans for submission to the PR HA's CDBG-DR funds and other potential funds in the pipeline.
- 4) Provide an opportunity for participants to network and develop future collaborations.

PARTNERS (To-Date): Federal/Territory/State: EPA- Region 2, HUD, FEMA, HHS-HRSA, NIEHS, PR OSHA, PRDOH, PRDE, PRDoH

Asthma/Health Coalitions: PR Asthma Coalition, PR Primary Care Association; **Academia:** UMET- OSHA Training Center; Rutgers University, University of Puerto Rico- School of Health Professions & School of Public Health; Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PESHU) at Mount Sinai; Hunter College-Centro PR

Advisory Groups/Foundations: Reimagine PR; 100 Resilient Cities

Health & Housing Policy/ Non-Profits: Heart to Heart; Hopenow; Servicios Legales, Consumer PR; USGBC-Caribbean Chapter; Path Stone,

Industry Associations: PR Builders Association, PR Chamber of Commerce, United Auto Workers, Chemical Workers Union, AFSCME

DRAFT 11/26/18 Rev. 11/27/28
PR HEALTHY HOMES/HOUSING/BUILDINGS STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WORKING SESSIONS
Dec. 6th, Dec 7th and Dec. 10th
Venue: Sala Carmen Pérez
Biblioteca Dra Barbosa and 2nd Nivel
Universidad Metropolitana en Bayamón

Draft Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. Overview of Current Key Initiatives/Projects:
 - A. Rafael Caballero/UMET-Atlantic OSHA Training Center
 - B. Jim Remington/Carolina Median- NIEHS- Migrant Clinician Network
 - C. Zulma Velazquez/COR -3
 - D. *Schenine Mitchell/Zolymar Luna- US EPA- PATHSTONE*
 - E. *Terry Wesley/Francesco Rosado- Solar Initiatives*
 - F. Emilio Colon-PR Builders Association- Home Building Institute
 - G. US GBC- Caribbean Division
 - H. Dr. Lida Orta - Dr. Soto-UPR
 - I. UAW (Resilience Training), CWU
 - J. Relimagina PR
 - K. Dr. Edwin Meléndez/Hunter College-Centro PR
 - L. Others?
- III. List of Current Training Assets delineated by geographic area, key courses, trainer and student capacity.
- IV. Development of marketing strategy for recruiting students-long term career paths.
- V. Work Plan development for Workforce Training for CDBG-DR Funding and others
- VI. How do we track progress by geographic region? Hunter College, Relimagina PR- GIS
- VII. Next Steps

HEALTHY HOMES/HOUSING/BUILDINGS' INITIATIVE: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LEAD POISONING, MOLD AND ASTHMA IN THE AFTERMATH OF DISASTERS

FACTSHEET

Issue Statement: Many long-term environmental health threats exist because of Hurricanes Maria and Irma, the most significant being lead poisoning and the growth of mold in the home, which often triggers asthma. These environmental health threats are further exacerbated by children and families experiencing toxic stress in the aftermath of these natural disasters.

Purpose: The Healthy Homes/Housing/Buildings' initiative will primarily focus on building capacity for the identification and management of lead poisoning, mold and asthma, including, toxic stress in the aftermath of disasters. This will be accomplished first through focused training of target audiences: *workers involved in debris removal/mold remediation/renovation/rebuild; individuals trained as Lead Inspectors; Healthy Home Inspectors; Community Health Workers; Health Care Providers and Families and Children.* Focusing on the health care delivery that incorporates the strategy for addressing asthma, mold and lead exposure through clinical and environmental/in-home management will be the next approach. This initiative will also focus on addressing building codes revisions and compliance; sustainable building materials and energy and water efficiency (Energy Star, Water sense, Portfolio Manager). Incorporating key components of the Built Environment and the Walkability Institute will also be addressed. This rebuilding of Puerto Rico provides an excellent opportunity to integrate housing, a key social determinant of health, with the indoor and outdoor environment.

Background: In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, the NJ American Academy of Pediatrics and the NJ Department of Health developed a template to successfully identify and manage lead poisoning, mold and asthma as well as address toxic stress experienced by children and families in the 10 impacted counties. A similar template customized to the needs of the Puerto Rico will be utilized.

Key Benefits: ***Builds*** capacity at all levels; ***Assists*** in optimal utilizations of funds; ***Targets*** workforce development; ***Creates*** sustainable new jobs; ***Addresses*** the key health issues in an integrative manner: Housing-Health-Environment; ***Ensures*** the PR is better prepared for future hurricane seasons.

Partners: Multiple PR agencies (DOH, DOE, DOL, HFA, HA, DOE, etc.) & federal government agencies (EPA, HUD-HQ, HUD-PR-VI, FEMA, HHS, NIEHS, CDC, ATSDR, etc.), PESHU-Mount Sinai; University of PR, federally health qualified clinics, and non-profits & private organizations will be collaborating/coordinating to implement this Healthy Homes/Housing initiative.

- I. **Outcomes/Benefits by Target Audience: Gov't (G); Health Care Providers (HCP); Community Health Workers/Healthy Home Specialists (workers); Families & Children (Fam); Construction Workers (Hazardous Waste, Mold Remediation, RRP) and Community & Private Organizations (CO);**
 - a) Build capacity to serve as a reliable source of recovery information to help prevent exposure to lead and other housing-based hazards; including, managing toxic stress experienced by children and families in the aftermath of natural disasters.

- b) Understand the importance of conducting lead exposure surveillance and screening children for lead poisoning in the aftermath of natural disasters. Utilize training resources so providers know what to do and who to contact, should they identify a patient with elevated lead levels and/or other environmental health hazard.
- c) Understand mold and mold-cleanup, including, the importance of controlling moisture to address mold. Provide a list of healthy products that are useful in mold removal and cleanup.
- d) Understand the common asthma triggers and how they can be mitigated in the home. Understand the importance of addressing asthma through clinical and environmental case management.
- e) Promote the maintenance of a healthy home.
- f) Create new jobs for individuals as certified asthma educators'/community health workers/ healthy home specialists' /construction workers-debris removal-hazardous waste-mold remediation.
- g) Target workforce development through training & certification; Create sustainable new jobs.
- h) Identify the link between a change in housing status because of a natural disaster and the health (physical & behavior) manifestations the health care provider will see in the clinical setting.

II. Available Funding Sources-Non-Competitive Funding, Unobligated & Timeline

A. CDBG-DR FUND LIFECYCLE: Timeline?

FOR RELEASE

Monday
July 30, 2018

HUD APPROVES \$1.5 BILLION DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN IN PUERTO RICO

Action plan focuses on housing, infrastructure and economic development

WASHINGTON – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson today announced HUD has approved a \$1.5 billion [disaster recovery plan](#) to help citizens in Puerto Rico to recover from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Puerto Rico recently submitted the plan for HUD's review which primarily focuses on the restoration of damaged and destroyed homes, businesses and infrastructure. [Read Puerto Rico's recovery plan.](#)

Puerto Rico's long-term recovery is supported through HUD's *Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program* which requires grantees to develop thoughtful recovery plans informed by residents. [Learn more about CDBG-DR and the State's role in long-term disaster recovery \(en Español\).](#)

"Today, we turn an important corner in our long-term effort to rebuild hard-hit communities in Puerto Rico," said Secretary Carson. "This is just the beginning – billions in federal disaster recovery funding will soon be put to work and help our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico rebuild their homes and their lives."

Background

On September 8, 2017, President Trump signed the [Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017](#). The Act appropriated \$7.4 billion in CDBG-DR funding for major disasters declared in 2017. To distribute these funds, the Act requires HUD to direct the funds to the areas most impacted by last year's major disasters. On February 1, 2018, HUD allocated \$1.5 billion of that appropriation to Puerto Rico to address the serious unmet needs on the island. The action plan approved today will put these funds to work.

On April 10, 2018, HUD allocated another \$18.5 billion to further support recovery in Puerto Rico and to rebuild communities impacted by Hurricanes Maria and Irma and to protect them from major disasters in the future. HUD will shortly publish program rules to guide Puerto Rico and others on the use of those funds.

CDBG-DR grants support a variety of disaster recovery activities including housing redevelopment and rebuilding, business assistance, economic revitalization, and infrastructure repair. Grantees are required to spend the majority of these recovery funds in "most impacted" areas as identified by HUD. HUD will issue administrative guidelines shortly for use of the funds to address grantees' long-term recovery needs, particularly in the area of housing recovery.

To address unmet needs, Puerto Rico identified several housing, infrastructure and economic development recovery needs arising from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Puerto Rico's disaster recovery action plan includes the following activities:

- I. **Housing (\$1 billion)** – Puerto Rico is investing more than \$1 billion to restore the island's severely damaged housing stock. As part of the plan, Puerto Rico intends to provide up to \$120,000 to rebuild destroyed homes for each qualified homeowner and up to \$48,000 to repair each eligible damaged property. Additional housing investments include funding for *rental assistance* (\$10,000,000), specifically for properties serving the elderly and other vulnerable households. Puerto Rico has also proposed a \$36 million *Home Emergency Resilience Program* that provides up to \$6,000 per household for individual solar appliances to help families.
 - A. **Economic Revitalization (\$145 million)** - Puerto Rico's recovery plan provides \$145 million for several activities to help revitalize the post-disaster economy, grants of up to \$50,000 for eligible businesses. The plan also targets grants of up to *small business incubators and accelerators* (\$10,000,000) awards of up to \$2,500,000 for each eligible incubator operation, a *workforce training program* (\$10,000,000) awards of up to \$2,000,000 to train eligible Section 3 residents, and a *construction and commercial revolving loan program* (\$35,000,000) that will provide up to \$1,000,000 per loan to eligible businesses.
- **Infrastructure (\$100 million)** - To support the repair of damaged infrastructure on the island, Puerto Rico intends to target \$100 million to match federal investments through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects.